

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : J. R. Bonnell
Serial No. : 10/614,649
Filed : July 7, 2003
For : Healthcare Cash Management Accounting System
Examiner : James A. Kramer
Art Unit : 3627

Rule 131 Declaration of Joanne R. Bonnell

I, Joanne R. Bonnell, declare as follows:

1. I am the inventor named in the above identified subject patent application.
2. I am informed and believe that claims 1 – 30 of the subject patent application are rejected with reference to U.S. Patent Application having Publication No. US 2004/0153405 – Millary et al.
3. Attached hereto and made part of this declaration is the following Exhibits:
 - i. Exhibit A is a copy of a diagram detailing operation of the system claimed in claims 1 – 30 of the subject patent application which was created on or about August of 1999.
 - ii. Exhibit B is a copy of an Internal Employee Progress Sheet required to be submitted by Employees to their Supervisors detailing progress and accomplishments of Employee Projects for the time period between 1998 – 1999.

4. As disclosed in the Declaration filed on July 25, 2005 which is incorporated herein in its entirety (hereinafter, "7/25 Declaration") I conceived the invention disclosed in the subject application in the United States and reduced the invention to practice on or before November 22, 2002.

5. I began my employment at Siemens Medical Solutions, Inc. on February 17, 1997 as Product Manager in the Patient Account Department for the INVISION®/UNITY® systems.

6. Shortly after beginning my employment at Shared Medical System (SMS), now Siemens Medical Solutions, Inc, I met with my manager, Jane Henderson to discuss the concept of developing an automated cash management process system that automates manual healthcare-specific patient and non-patient revenue accounting procedures by automatically generating message data that interfaces and accounts for financial journal entries. Jane Henderson concluded that the function that I was describing was not within the bounds of the Patient Accounting Product line.

7. In January, 1999, I reported to a new manager, Craig Patton. I disclosed the same concept idea as described in point #6 to Craig Patton and he encouraged me to speak with Morgan Pape, whom at the time worked in Shared Medical Systems (SMS), now Siemens Medical Solutions, Inc. General Financial Systems (GFS) department, to determine if this solution could be developed. .

8. In Point 7 of Exhibit A of the 7/25 Declaration, I misstated the date of the meeting between myself and Morgan Pape as being on or around February 1998, This meeting actually took place on or about February 1999. During the meeting on or about February 1999, I disclosed the claimed invention to Morgan Pape also in the employ of Siemens Medical Solutions, Inc. Morgan agreed that it was a good idea and that he would follow-up with his staff to assess the development effort.

9. On or about August 1999, I completed an exemplary diagram detailing operation of the claimed system attached hereto as Exhibit A. The diagram shows the device receiving message data in the form of an electronic from departments of a healthcare organization identifying income received as well as message data from medical

reimbursement information. The system is able to reconcile data received and collates and combines the electronic message data from different sources to produce a financial support.

10. On or about December 2000, Luis Castillo was made Director of Legacy Financial System Department. Luis was assigned the responsibility of Patent Manager for the Financial Systems Department.

11. On or about February 2001, I met with Luis Castillo who was the Product Owner of the General Financial Systems Division. During this meeting I discussed the idea which became the subject of the claimed invention. Specifically, I explained an application enhancement to a product line. The application enhancement was presented as a device such as an electronic cash register having specific processors programmed with complex functions to facilitate the full method of collecting payments, balancing cash, accounting for these transactions and reporting for a single or multi-entity healthcare facility. I presented the operation of the claimed system by analogy using a cash register in retail setting. However, unlike the retail cash register, a healthcare facility is entirely different and receives revenue streams from within the healthcare facility and other locally and remotely located associated facilities. Department keys on a cash register programmed with, or connected to, processing devices to display the hospitals income categories received from the various insurance payers (e.g., Medicare, the Blues, HMO's), bad debt agency payments, patient payments, etc.. As the system receives notification of a transaction, electronic message receipts are produced for use during the daily cash settlement process where reconciliation between the cash register reports, receipts produced from the register and the actual currency need to balance. The claimed system assures that daily cash transactions are balanced and the money is prepared for deposit into an appropriate financial bank account.

Additionally, and unlike a retail store, healthcare providers receive money that is automatically "direct deposited" from associate entities. This income comprises electronic payments from patients and/or insurance companies, wire transfer monies from other affiliates, lock box deposits and credit card reimbursements etc. The system receives messages that accounts for this data and the corresponding monies to balance with actual cash deposits.

The system allows a Healthcare Organization to account for and produce appropriate journal entries for these transactions. The system is programmed and/or includes programmed processing devices for supporting general ledger account numbers so that the total amount of the cash received from a particular payer is tracked and compiled into a file that is used to generate automatic transactions to post journal entries to the providers GL system (Debit to the cash account and a credit to the general ledger account number associated with the payer/department key). The system supplements a settlement process so that the register is automatically "polled" or initiated to produce an electronic report that displays the individual transactions and totals of each payer/department key. The system stores totals and provide month-end reporting used for a facility's bank statement reconciliation, to determine month end unposted cash figures, which is needed to establish actual account receivables days calculations, and provides an ability to review case mix ratios, and institute cash forecasting.

Luis agreed that the idea should be submitted and I was instructed to begin a formal write-up of the invention using Siemens Medical Solutions internal patent application process.

12. Between February 2001 and November 2002, I wrote and revised several drafts of the operation of my invention. During the writing and revising processes I analyzed the operation of each operational aspect of how the system performs the included functions which comprise the features claimed in currently pending claims 1 – 30. My analysis included determining that the system could be implemented as both a hardware device as well as in software to be executed by at least one processing device. Additional functionality was added during this time period including automatically retrieving message data corresponding to deposit information of respective healthcare facilities from their respective banking institutions on a regular basis. During this time, I also performed searches on the U.S. Patent and Trademark website to determine if any similar systems existed.

13. On November 18, 2002, I formally submitted the Invention Disclosure Memorandum (Exhibit A of the 7/25 Declaration) and the Invention Disclosure (Exhibit B of the 7/25 Declaration).

14. A Provisional patent application, based on my Invention Disclosure was prepared by Siemens Medical Solutions, Inc legal department and reviewed and approved by me prior to filing on December 12, 2002 and was given Serial No. 60/432,765.

15. A Non-Provisional Patent Application claiming priority from the Provisional Application identified in Point 16 of this Declaration was prepared by Siemens Medical Solutions, Inc legal department and reviewed and approved by me prior to filing on July 7, 2003.

16. All statements made herein to my knowledge are true. These statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under 18 U.S.C. 1001 and that such willful statements may jeopardize the validity of the Application or any patent issued thereon.

8/17/06
Date

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